

## Message Text

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60

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 AF-08 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 SAJ-01 /098 W

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R 271513Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8086

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 13589

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, XF

SUBJECT: AUGUST 27 DECLARATION OF SOVIET AFRO-ASIAN SOLIDARITY  
COMMITTEE ON LEBANON

REF: MOSCOW 10974

1. SUMMARY. DECLARATION OF SOVIET COMMITTEE FOR SOLIDARITY  
WITH COUNTRIES OF ASIA AND AFRICA (CARRIED IN AUGUST 27  
PRAVDA) IS HIGHLY CRITICAL OF ISRAEL BUT STILL CONTINUES  
TREND TOWARD MODERATION IN SOVIET PUBLIC STATEMENTS NOTED  
AFTER PREVIOUS DECLARATION OF SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE JULY 10  
(REFTEL). MFA LEBANESE-SYRIAN DESK OFFICER DOES NOT MAKE  
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MUCH OF DECLARATION AND REJECTS IDEA OF MOSCOW

ACTUALLY ATTEMPTING TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT ISRAELI  
BLOCKADE.

2. SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE OBLIQUELY SUGGESTS THAT  
SYRIAN WITHDRAWAL FROM LEBANON WOULD BE A GOOD THING  
AND, LESS OBLIQUELY, SUGGESTS THAT SYRIAN COOPERATION  
WITH ITS "NATURAL ALLIES" WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO A RESOLU-  
TION O LEBANESE CRISIS. END SUMMARY.

3. ASSUME DEPARTMENT HAS FBIS TEXT OF DECLARATION.  
EMBASSY IMPRESSION IS THAT WHILE SPECIFIC CRITICISM OF  
ISRAEL--PARTICULARLY ISRAELI BLOCKADE--IS ESCALATED IN  
CONTRAST TO JULY 10 DECLARATION, OVERALL TONE OF DOCUMENT--  
PARTICULARLY WITH REFERENCE TO SYRIAN TROOP PRESENCE--  
IS MORE MODERATE THAN LAST DECLARATION, AND THUS CONTINUES  
A TREND TOWARD MODERATION DESCENDING FROM JUNE 9 TASS  
STATEMENT.

4. DURING AUGUST 27 DISCUSSION WITH ALEKSANDR I. ZOTOV,  
FIRST SECRETARY IN NEAR EAST COUNTRIES DEPARTMENT MFA  
(WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR LEBANON-SYRIA), EMBOFF ASKED  
ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF SOVIET UNION GOING BY STRONG  
WORDS IN SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE DECLARATION AND  
ACTUALLY DOING SOMETHING ABOUT ISRAELI BLOCKADE. EMBOFF  
SHOWED ZOTOV AUGUST 15 AFP ITEM (AFP NO. 233 AND 234)  
REPORTING FATAH CC MEMBER ABU IYAD'S CALL FOR SOVIET  
SHIP TO BREAK BLOCKADE, AND ASKED FOR COMMENT. ZOTOV  
WENT TO SOME LENGTHS TO SAY THAT GREAT POWERS HAD  
SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY TO AVOID AGGRAVATING SITUATION,  
THAT THEIR INVOLVEMENT SHOULD BE KEPT WITHIN BOUNDS AND  
THAT "SPEAKING SINCERELY" HE HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF ANY  
SOVIET PLAN TO TEST ISRAELI BLOCKADE. HE DID GO ON TO  
DEPLORE BLOCKADE AND TO DESCRIBE IT AS CONTRIBUTING TO  
DANGEROUS SITUATION VIS-A-VIS LEBANON, BUT  
HIS EMPHASIS WAS CLEARLY ON MODERATION.

5. ZOTOV IMPLIED THAT SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE DECLARATION  
WAS LEAST MOSCOW COULD DO AFTER FALL OF TAL ZAATAR  
AND WORSENING SITUATION OF PALESTINIANS. HE DID NOT MAKE  
MUCH OF DECLARATION, SAID IT SHOULD SIMPLY BE TAKEN AS  
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STATEMENT OF CONCERN ON PART OF SOVIET PUBLIC. HE DENIED  
THERE WAS MFA COORDINATION OF SUCH SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE  
STATEMENTS, SAID HE HAD FIRST SEEN DECLARATION AROUND  
NOON AUGUST 26 IN FINISHED FORM.

6. ZOTOV ASKED ABOUT REPORTED U.S. AND FRG INTENTION TO  
OPEN CONSULATES IN JUNIYA. EMBOFF CITED DEPARTMENT  
SPOKESMAN'S AUGUST 23 PRESS CONFERENCE REMARKS IN EXPLANA-

TION OF U.S. ENVOYS' MISSION IN CHRISTIAN CONTROLLED  
REGION OF LEBANON AND U.S. SUPPORT FOR TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY  
OF LEBANON.

7. ASKED ABOUT PORTION OF SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE DECLARA-  
TION RELATING TO SYRIA, ZOTOV SHOWED SOME SYMPATHY WITH  
SYRIAN MOTIVATBGN FOR INTERVENTION, BUT HE CLAIMED  
EVENTS WERE NOT RULING SYRIANS RATHER THAN SYRIANS  
CONTROLLING EVENTS. HE SAID SYRIAN TROOP PRESENCE  
SERVED INTERESTS OF FRIGHTIST-CHRISTIAN FORCES AND  
THAT "NORMAL" POLITICAL DISCUSSION COULD NOT TAKE PLACE  
AMOUNGLEBANESE PARTIES TO CONFLICT UNTIL SYRIANS WITH-  
DREW. ASKED ABOUT SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE'S STATEMENT THAT  
SYRIAN COOPERATION WITH ITS "NATURAL ALLIES" WOULD  
CONTRIBUTE TO NORMALIZATION OF LEBANESE SITUATION, HE SAID  
THIS REFLECTED SOVIET VIEW THAT SYRIA WAS BECOMING  
ISOLATED IN ARAB WORLD.

8. COMMENT. ZOTOV'S COMMENTS SHOULD BE KEPT IN PER-  
SPECTIVE. HE IS ACTING LEBANESE-SYRIAN DESK OFFICER  
WHICH MAKES HIM KNOWLEDGEABLE BUT NOT NECESSARILY  
AUTHORITATIVE. WE DOUBT, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT SOLIDARITY  
COMMITTEE DECLARATIONS ARE NOT APPROVED BY MFA AT SOME  
LEVEL ALTHOUGH WE DO NOT HAVE PROOF OF THIS. NOR DO  
WE ASSUME THAT ZOTOV WOULD NECESSARILY BE PRIVY TO  
MOSCOW'S PLANS FOR SOME ESCALATION OF ITS ACTIVITY WITH  
REGARD TO THE SITUATION IN LEBANON.

9. STILL WE HAVE NO INFORMATION OR FEELING HERE WHICH  
WOULD CAUSE US TO QUESTION HIS MESSAGE OF MODERA-  
TION. IT TRACKS WITH OUR OWN INTERPRETATION OF  
SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE DECLARATION AS A NECESSARY BUT  
MINIMAL SOVIET STATEMENT AFTER THE RECENT PALESTINIAN  
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DEFEATS.  
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## Message Attributes

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